

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached is a replacement Figure 6 which will replace the prior version of Figure 6 in the present application as well as an annotated copy.

REMARKS

After this Amendment, claims 1-10 remain pending in this application. By this Amendment, we have corrected Figure 6 to show the installation members, and amended the specification to clarify any confusion between the "fixing members 12" and the "fixed members 24." The fixing members 12 and installation members 12' are shown in the original drawings, but the members 12' were not labeled as such. Further, we have amended the claims to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Regarding the prior art rejections of claims 1-10, they are unsustainable, and therefore should be considered and withdrawn, for the reasons described below.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the application.

The Rejections

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 5-10 further stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 2-4 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicants' Arguments

In response to the section 112 rejection, a clarification has been made in the specification and claim 5 to distinguish between the terms "fixing members" and the "fixed members." This makes the claims clearly defined.

Also, the installation members claimed but not shown in Figures are now shown in Figure 6 and identified in the specification.

Further, claim 10 is amended to remove the term "etc."

In response to the anticipation rejection, first of all we submit that a single reference must show each and every element of the rejected claim. However, in the present case,

Ishimoto et al. (US 4,188,809, hereafter Ishimoto) does not meet the claimed limitations.

Specifically, in regard to claim 1, Ishimoto does not show the claimed limitation of “an arm member of which one end ... supports the divided roll, and of which the other end is fixed on the fixed member.” Ishimoto does not show such an arm. Instead, in Ishimoto, the rings (rolls) are supported directly on the shaft 8 which in turn is supported on the fixed bearings 14.

Furthermore, Ishimoto does not show the claimed limitation of “a load detector for detecting a moment of rotation that acts on the arm member.” In Ishimoto, the shape detection is performed by the sensing of gap G, see figure 3. The gap is sensed by element 7 in Ishimoto, and the measurement of the gap is translated into shape detection. Because of this particular arrangement for the shape detection, when the bending force on the rings becomes large, compensation means becomes necessary as shown in figure 5, see col. 4, lines 46-55. In contrast, in the present invention, the bending moment on each arm member is detected by a “load detector”, for example, an embodiment of the load detector is shown as element 28 in figures 6 and 7. The bending moment can be large or small without an adverse effect on the guide rolls, and no compensation means is needed.

Thus, the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* case of anticipation. The rejection of claim 1, and hence of claims 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, there is nothing that would suggest or make obvious to modify the system disclosed in Ishimoto to arrive at the claimed invention. Therefore, claims 1 and 5-10 are also not rejectable over Ishimoto even under 35 U.S.C. §103.

In response to the rejection of claim 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ishimoto in view of Adolfsson et al. (US 4,972,706, hereafter Adolfsson), there is no motivation to combine the two references. The Examiner asserts the combination by merely parroting the reason disclosed in the application. This asserted combination is clearly using the

Applicant's own teachings to reject the claims, which is impermissible. Nothing is suggested in either reference to have a need to modify the other. Nor has the Examiner presented a justifiable need to combine.

However, even if combined, Adolfsson does not rectify the deficiency found in Ishimoto above in regard to the limitations of the parent claim 1. Moreover, claims 2-4 contain additional limitations as shown in the references. It is true that Adolfsson shows the roller section 6 and the looper 3, as shown and described in Figures 4 and 7 and col. 5, but it does not show the particular combination of structural features claimed in the present claim 1, and hence by reference also in claims 2-4.

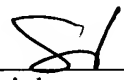
Therefore, the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* case of obviousness sufficient to reject claims 2-4. Therefore, the rejection of claims 2-4 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, we believe that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph has been overcome by the changes to the specification, the drawing and the claims. Furthermore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103 are not sustainable and should be withdrawn. Therefore, this application is now in condition for allowance. The below-signed attorney for applicant welcomes any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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